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**MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO U.S. CHARGES OF BRIBERY, I.D. FRAUD, AND
TRANSPORTING ALIENS IN DRIVER'S LICENSE SCHEME INVOLVING 900 ALIENS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RAFET OZOGLU, a/k/a "Mehmet Ak," pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court before United States Magistrate Judge KEVIN NATHANIEL FOX to six felony counts in a pending Indictment that charged OZOGLU with participating in conspiracies to bribe a public official, fraudulently obtain identification documents, specifically Washington, D.C., driver's licenses, and transport illegal aliens.

As part of the scheme OZOGLU, and OZOGLU's co-conspirator, Mustafa Ozsusamlar, a/k/a "Mustafa Ozcan," a/k/a "Missta Oscane," transported aliens from the New York area to Washington, D.C., in order to fraudulently obtain the driver's licenses by bribing co-conspirator Gwendolynn Dean, an employee of the Washington, D.C., Department of Motor Vehicles to process the driver's license applications.

According to the Indictment, throughout the two-and-a-half year course of the conspiracy, OZOGLU and Ozsusamlar fraudulently obtained more than 900 Washington, D.C., driver's licenses by bribing Dean. Many of those obtaining the Washington, D.C., driver's licenses were illegal aliens, and approximately 75 of the individuals later exchanged their fraudulently obtained Washington, D.C., driver's licenses for New York driver's licenses.

According to the Indictment, and Criminal Complaints previously filed in the case, Dean was a window clerk with the Washington, D.C., Department of Motor Vehicles ("DC DMV"). From January 2000 through June 2002, OZOGLU and Ozsusamlar allegedly solicited co-conspirators who wished to fraudulently obtain driver's licenses (the "Clients") and transported those Clients from the New York area to Washington, D.C. ("DC"), usually driving the Clients in passenger vans. Most of the Clients were of Middle Eastern, South Asian or Russian descent and many were illegal aliens.

According to the Indictment, once in Washington, OZOGLU, Ozsusamlar, and/or their co-conspirators, filled out DC DMV driver's license applications for the Clients, using fictitious DC addresses and then accompanied the Clients to a DC DMV office and to the window of Dean. At the window, Dean processed the Clients' applications, despite the absence of proof of name and date of birth, Social Security number, and residence,

in exchange for cash payments from OZOGLU, Ozsusamlar, and/or their co-conspirators. After each Client obtained a valid DC driver's license, OZOGLU, Ozsusamlar, and/or their co-conspirators allegedly drove the Clients back to the New York area, it was charged.

According to the Indictment, the Clients each paid OZOGLU, Ozsusamlar, and/or their co-conspirators approximately \$1,500 for this service.

OZOGLU, 42, was a resident of Brooklyn, New York, until his arrest in June 2002, on these charges. As a result of his plea, OZOGLU faces maximum sentences of 5 years in jail for conspiracy to bribe a public official; 15 years for bribery of a public official; 15 years for conspiracy to commit identification document fraud; 15 years for identification document fraud; 10 years for conspiracy to transport illegal aliens; and 5 years for transportation of illegal aliens. In addition each count carries a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

Dean, 49, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to two counts of identification document fraud on March 10, 2003, and on October 31, 2003, was sentenced by United States District Judge KIMBA M. WOOD to 57 months in prison for her role in the conspiracy.

Ozsusamlar, 59, was a resident of Manhattan until his arrest in December 2001 on other federal charges. The trial of Ozsusamlar is scheduled to begin on January 20, 2004, before Judge WOOD. If convicted of all counts in the Indictment, Ozsusamlar faces the same maximum penalties as OZOGLU.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

Mr. KELLEY said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL and MIRIAM E. ROCAH are in charge of the prosecution.

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